

Family Focused
Parent-Child Relationship and Discipleship

Introduction:

Discipleship necessitates relationships. But certain relationships necessitate discipleship.

True or False: Discipleship is a ministry only for the church.

What is the role of church and the family in the discipleship of Children?

1. How were children disciplined by the church? Ephesians 6:1
 - a. When the church gathered for corporate worship, Paul was assuming that his letter would be read to the entire assembly which would include children.
 - b. It is a huge blessing for children to be part of our assembly and to worship in the corporate assembly. But it is also a biblical pattern.
 - i. Nehemiah 8:2-3
 - ii. Deuteronomy 31:11-13
 - iii. Matthew 14:21 and Mark 6:34f
 - c. Who is/are the specific individual(s) within the church that is commanded to bring up children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord?

2. How were children disciplined by the family? (Ephesians 6:1-4)
 - a. The pattern of the early church was to promote and prioritize the institution of the family in the role of the discipleship of the children.
 - b. Although Fathers are ultimately responsible for the bringing up of children, both parents play a vital role.

How does this apply to discipleship?

- Truth# 1 – Christian fathers, your position necessitates that you are discipling your children.
- Truth# 2 – Christian mothers, your position necessitates that you are discipling your children as you serve under your husband's leadership.
- Truth #3 – Part of bringing up your children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord will involve teaching them the importance of corporate worship in the local church.
- Truth #4 – The church is to encourage and equip parents in their discipleship role, and must guard against undermining or underestimating the role of parents.
- Truth #5 – Christian fathers and mothers make your home a theological community.

How to make your home a theological community?

1. In your study, be _____ God's Word. Deuteronomy 6:1
 - a. To _____ you.
 - b. Before you can teach your children you must first be _____.

2. In your life, be _____ God's Word. Deuteronomy 6:1-2
 - a. Hearing/learning without applying means we are _____ ourselves.
 - b. Two characteristics of life that is learning and living God's Word:
 - i. _____ of God
 - ii. _____ to God
 - c. Parents whose lives are marked by honoring and obeying their Heavenly Father provide their children with a beautiful _____ to follow.

3. In your discipling, _____ God's Word to your children. Deuteronomy 6:7-9
 - a. How? Teach _____ – To whet or sharpen – to teach incisively or to inculcate – to impress upon the mind by frequent repetition or persistent urging.
 - b. To whom: Your
 - c. When:

Conclusion: Make your home a _____ community. The Word must be learned, lived, and _____ out as we consistently teach our children. The family unit is a gift of God and is designed to be the most effective tool for the discipleship of children. Believers, as members of the church, do not neglect your role in the discipling of your family, make it essential. (Malachi 2:15-16)

Discussion Questions:

1. What have you been learning from the Word of God recently?
2. How have you shared or applied what you have learned in the context of your family?
3. If a survey of Christian parents was done, what percentage do you think would say it is primarily the churches job to bring up children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord? Why did you say that percentage?
4. John Piper states, "The greatest stumbling block for children in worship is that their parents do not cherish the hour." Do you agree or disagree? What other stumbling blocks might families face in seeking to worship together? For his complete article visit the link: <http://www.desiringgod.org/articles/the-family-together-in-gods-presence>
5. What is your earliest memory of attending a worship service?
6. Explain why the teaching of Deuteronomy 6:1 is vital to the success of the teaching of Deuteronomy 6:7.
7. Of the five applications truths that pastor shared at the end of the message, which one resonated the most with you?
8. What challenges are you facing in your role as a father or mother?
9. How does the rest of the book of Ephesians encourage parents?
10. What has helped your family become a stronger theological community?